

## MILK DISTRIBUTERS PLAN UNION FOR MEN

Organization to Make Industry Strike Proof Soon to Be Formed.

PUBLIC TO TAKE PART

Four Men Attack Platform Worker, Who Is Sent to Hospital.

The milk distributors of New York announced yesterday that as soon as their business became normal again they would form a union of their own along the lines of the brotherhood established by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company several years ago. The backbone of the strike has been broken, they said.

"The distributors wish to make it clear at this time that they are not fighting against collective bargaining," a statement issued by the New York Milk Conference Board said.

"As soon as the public's need for milk has been met through the accepted channels the distributors will create an organization in their business which will preclude for all time the possibility of a strike such as recently occurred. They have declared before this that they are not waging a fight for temporary gains, but that from the passing inconvenience will come permanent relief in the form of some bureau on which the employers, the workers and the public will be represented."

Henry B. Hankinson, a platform man for the Borden Farm Products Company at 90 Sterling place, Brooklyn, was attacked yesterday morning by four men believed to have been strikers at Flatbush avenue and Union street and was beaten about the head. Physicians at Kings County Hospital thought he had suffered concussion of the brain.

I. Elkin Nathans, secretary of the milk board, admitted the board's attorneys were looking into the attack on Hankinson and that a charge of violating the injunction might be made.

"A member of our staff is gathering evidence and all necessary data of alleged violations of this injunction order," he said, "and any and all acts of violence on the part of strikers or their sympathizers will be looked into by the board's attorney, who will take whatever action is necessary."

While the amount of raw milk received yesterday was not greater than that of the two previous days, the distributors claimed that deliveries were increased materially overnight. Borden's was reported as having had 1,000 wagons on the streets and Sheffield Farms more than 300. The milk board statement placed the number of wagons in service at 1,500, or one-third of the total number used by the milk companies.

Ole Salthe, head of the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Health Department, said the action against Sheffield Farms for alleged selling of milk more than forty-eight hours old in violation of the sanitary code would not be begun until tomorrow. The milk company's reply to Mr. Salthe had been that a "green" employee apparently made a mistake in capping the bottles. Inspector James J. Cooney of the Health Department has made affidavit that he found 120 bottles of milk that had been pasteurized last Sunday on a wagon in Lexington avenue Wednesday afternoon.

No definite date for the actual re-

establishment of houses to house deliveries had yet been named by the distributors. They admit they have not got enough workers to man the 2,000 wagons not in use, but state they will begin hiring drivers tomorrow if the strikers do not return to work. The companies have maintained these positions were being held open for their old employees "who were browbeaten into the walkout," and who since have expressed a willingness to return. But up to date, it is said, none of them has returned.

A report that the Meadow Brook Dairy of Staten Island had capitulated to the strikers was denied by the milk board.

## MORE ROADS TO ACT ON PAY CUT NOV. 15

52 Eastern Lines Follow West in Setting the Date for 30 Days' Notice.

Managers of the fifty-two railroads serving the territory north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi rivers, have fixed Tuesday, November 15, as the date upon which they will give all classes of employees thirty days' notice of their intention to cut wages. This action follows closely upon similar notices posted on many Western railroads, in accordance with the decision of the Association of Railway Executives to reduce the pay of train service employees 10 per cent. and cut all other employees to the going rates paid in non-transportation industries, in order to bring about a general reduction of freight rates.

With the lapse of the thirty day period begin their conferences with each class on December 15, railroad managers will of workers in an attempt to agree upon the pay cuts. With refusal of the reductions by the employees' representatives is a foregone conclusion, railroad officials expect to have all resulting disputes certified to the Railroad Labor Board soon after the first of the year.

Unless the pressure of shippers and the Harding Administration for lower freight rates forces the board to speed up or set aside temporarily the full docket of disputes now before it, the wage controversies hardly can come in for consideration much before March, 1922, in the opinion of many railroad executives. In the latter event the time required for presentation and consideration of masses of evidence from both sides relative to living costs and wages paid in other industries will be such as to prevent action before midsummer.

## CARDINAL JUSTIFIES RIGHT TO STRIKE

Boston Prelate Says State Should Stay Aloof.

Boston, Nov. 12.—Cardinal O'Connell issued to-day a pastoral letter on industrial conditions in which he upheld the right of workmen to organize, justified the strike as labor's defence against injury and oppression and added that the State had no right to prohibit a just strike.

Asserting that "the existence of deep seated discontent and far reaching resentment in the industrial world of to-day" was not to be questioned, the Cardinal called on the workmen to fulfill his rightful obligations, to be honest in his labor, to keep just agreements with his employer and to urge his claims fairly. Employers, he urged, should provide a fair wage, be faithful to just agreements and "to have regard for the dignity of the workman, his right to health, to safety and to recreation." The Cardinal's letter continued:

"Stories of excessive profits and low wages, of heartless dismissals, of inhuman disregard of labor are a disgrace to our democratic state. What is needed is transformation of men and methods. Greed and avarice must be checked whenever possible. When capital is obdurate in its evil ways and abuses its strength there is only one refuge left to the oppressed, and that refuge is organization."

## PRESTON GIBSON AND WIFE PARTED

Separation to Be Followed by Proceedings for Divorce, It Is Asserted.

It was learned yesterday upon unquestioned authority that Mrs. Preston Gibson has separated from her husband and that their separation will be followed by divorce proceedings. Mrs. Gibson is in Europe with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Everts Benjamin. Mr. Gibson, who has an editorial connection with the *Marine Magazine*, at 25 East Twenty-eighth street, is in New York. It was impossible to learn when or where the legal proceedings will be begun. Mr. and Mrs. William Everts Benjamin went abroad nearly a year ago and were joined in Europe last spring by their daughter, who has been abroad since. During the summer Mrs. George Hillard Benjamin, who is Mrs. Gibson's aunt, joined the family circle in Europe and returned to New York recently.

When seen yesterday in her home, 24 West Eleventh street, Mrs. George Hillard Benjamin said: "I naturally saw a great deal of Mr. and Mrs. William Everts Benjamin and Mrs. Gibson while abroad. I have no authority to discuss Mrs. Gibson's personal affairs and I could neither confirm nor deny the report of the separation and impending divorce proceedings without written authority from her."

"But," added Mrs. Benjamin, "I have no hesitancy in saying that Mrs. Gibson's personal income has not been increased since she rejoined her parents. Therefore, the report that has appeared in print that she has an income of \$100,000 a year is not true. Her income remains what it was immediately following her marriage to Mr. Gibson. Neither has Mrs. Benjamin given her

daughter any costly gifts since they have become reconciled."

Mrs. Beatrice Benjamin Pratt, who was the former wife of Alexander D. B. Pratt, was married to Mr. Gibson in Greenwich, Conn., on October 17, 1912, against the wishes of her parents. Before her marriage she had received a large annual allowance from her mother, who is a daughter of the late H. H. Rogers, but after her marriage to Mr. Gibson her personal income was reduced to \$10,000 a year, with an additional allowance of the same sum a year for her children by her first marriage.

When Mrs. Gibson went abroad with her children it was reported that she had become reconciled with her parents. The report was subsequently verified and she has since remained with them.

Mr. Gibson's marriage with Mrs. Beatrice Benjamin Pratt was his third. In 1900 he married Miss Minna Field, daughter of Henry Field of Chicago and niece of Marshall Field. They were divorced a few years later. In February, 1909, he married Miss Grace McMillan Jarvis, granddaughter of Mrs. McMillan of Michigan, widow of the United States Senator from that State. They were divorced in Washington in March, 1917.

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